We claim:

1. A compound which inhibits the *hedgehog* pathway in a normal cell and does not inhibit the *hedgehog* pathway in a *patched*-null cell.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound has a molecular weight less than about 2000 amu.

3. The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound has a molecular weight less than about 1000 amu.

4. The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound causes a decrease in *gli* transcription of at least about 5% relative to an untreated control cell.

5. The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound causes a decrease in *gli* transcription of at least about 10% relative to an untreated control cell.

6. The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound causes a decrease in *gli* transcription of at least about 20% relative to an untreated control cell.

7. The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound binds to *patched*.

8. The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound inhibits the *hedgehog* pathway with an IC_{50} less than about 1 μM.

9. The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound inhibits the *hedgehog* pathway with an IC_{50} less than about 100 nM.

10. The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound inhibits the *hedgehog* pathway with an IC_{50} less than about 10 nM.

11. The compound of claim 2, wherein the compound causes a decrease in *gli* transcription of at least about 5% relative to an untreated control cell.

12. The compound of claim 2, wherein the compound causes a decrease in *gli* transcription of at least about 10% relative to an untreated control cell.

13. The compound of claim 2, wherein the compound causes a decrease in *gli* transcription of at least about 20% relative to an untreated control cell.

14. The compound of claim 2, wherein the compound binds to *patched.*

15. The compound of claim 2, wherein the compound inhibits the *hedgehog* pathway with an IC_{50} less than about 1 μM.

16. The compound of claim 2, wherein the compound inhibits the *hedgehog* pathway with an IC_{50} less than about 100 nM.

17. The compound of claim 2, wherein the compound inhibits the *hedgehog* pathway with an IC_{50} less than about 10 nM.

18. The compound of claim 4, wherein the compound inhibits the *hedgehog* pathway with an IC_{50} less than about 1 μM.

19. The compound of claim 4, wherein the compound inhibits the *hedgehog* pathway with an IC_{50} less than about 100 nM.

Sub A1

20. The compound of claim 4, wherein the compound inhibits the *hedgehog* pathway with an IC_{50} less than about 10 nM.

21. The compound of claim 11, wherein the compound inhibits the *hedgehog* pathway with an IC_{50} less than about 1 μM.

22. The compound of claim 11, wherein the compound inhibits the *hedgehog* pathway with an IC_{50} less than about 100 nM.

23. The compound of claim 11, wherein the compound inhibits the *hedgehog* pathway with an IC_{50} less than about 10 nM.

24. The compound of claim 2, wherein the compound increases PKA activity in a cell by a factor of at least about 2 relative to an untreated control cell.

25. The compound of claim 2, wherein the compound increases PKA activity in a cell by a factor of at least about 3 relative to an untreated control cell.

26. The compound of claim 2, wherein the compound increases PKA activity in a cell by a factor of at least about 5 relative to an untreated control cell.

27. The compound of claim 8, wherein the compound increases PKA activity in a cell by a factor of at least about 2 relative to an untreated control cell.

28. The compound of claim 8, wherein the compound increases PKA activity in a cell by a factor of at least about 3 relative to an untreated control cell.

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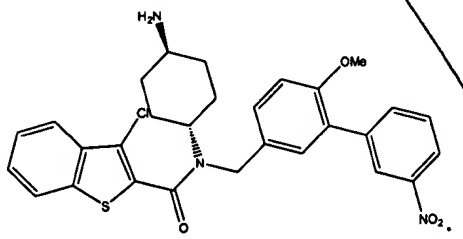
29. The compound of claim 8, wherein the compound increases PKA activity in a cell by a factor of at least about 5 relative to an untreated control cell.

30. A compound which inhibits activation of the *hedgehog* pathway by a *hedgehog* protein, but does not inhibit activation of the *hedgehog* pathway by the following compound:



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